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in his way, Caillié was able to penetrate into the interior of the great kingdoms of the Soudan, to find the sources of the Senegal, to cross the Niger farther inland than it had been crossed before, to visit Timbuctoo, and, after two years of wandering and romantic adventure, to reach France in safety, and to give an intelligent narrative of his discoveries. Alone and unaided, he accomplished a work which the British government, after having spent £ 700,000, was compelled to relinquish as a failure. It is evidently a pleasure to M. Lanoye that a countryman of his own should have been the hero of a journey so hazardous, so romantic, and so successful.

7.—*La Famille Buvard, Scènes de Mœurs Bruxelloises.* Par LOUIS HYMANS. Bruxelles et Leipzig: Auguste Schnée. 1858. 18mo. 2 vols. pp. 516.

WHO M. Louis Hymans is we are unable to say, never having met his name before on the title-page of any volume. But the grace and charm of this novel of the “Buvard Family” will make us eager to welcome any new work from the pen of so accomplished a writer. He attempts in this story to delineate life in Brussels, to exhibit the style of morals, trade, society, and politics in that reduced copy of Paris, to show its gayeties and gravities, its worth and its meanness. M. Desiré Buvard, the head of the notable family, is the type of the selfish, ambitious, able, and unscrupulous *parvenu*, who raises himself from obscure birth to high office in the state, accumulates property, keeps up appearances, and is afraid of nothing but public opinion and the tongue of slander. His wife is a weak, vain, but affectionate woman, fond of her children, but without force enough to resist her husband’s imperious will. The son, Athanase, is a scatter-brained, extravagant youth, good-hearted enough, but careless and fashionably dissolute. Of the two daughters, Claire is like her father, with more malignity of temper, and Bertha like her mother, with more force of character. Uncle Theophilus, the mother’s brother, is an honest and eccentric blunderer, noble in his impulses, but not wise in his plans. Ernest Prunier, the young lawyer, who becomes the husband of Bertha, is shrewd, talented, persevering, proud of his humble origin, sincere in his intercourse, and rises not by intrigue, but by his own ability. The noble Count de Bornhem and his son represent the busy statesman and the elegant man of leisure, both cultivated and honorable, yet utterly alien from each other in their tastes and habits. Peperberg is the type of the old soldier, grim in manners, rigid in discipline, and slow in ideas, yet frank and faithful.

Each of these is a marked character, and has a striking individuality.

The scenes in which these personages appear are the ordinary and various scenes of common life. We are introduced to the home of the family, and allowed to hear all its plots and conversations, to see its best and its worst side. We are treated to the spectacle of a ball, the sacrifices which are made to accomplish it, the hollow friendship which it signifies, and the emptiness of its result. Glimpses of the court and the exchange, a diplomatic dinner, promenades in the gardens, and Mass in the church, are sketched with minute and masterly accuracy. The whole management of the story is equally natural and ingenious. There is a plot with enough of mystery, yet without surprises and without improbabilities. Justice is done to all the characters; the wicked are reasonably punished, the good are fairly rewarded, and the moral result of the book is as satisfactory as its pictures of actual life. It ought to find a translator.

8.—*Chrisna.* Par X. B. SAINTINE. Paris: Hachette. 1859. 12mo.
pp. 356.

M. XAVIER BONIFACE, who writes under the assumed name of Saintine, is known in his own land as the author of very numerous comedies and plays,—upwards of two hundred, it is said,—and of not a few romances. The only work of his, however, which has gained much popularity out of France is the quaint and touching story of Picciola. To have written this is enough to establish an author's fame. But there are many other things which he has written which equally deserve to be read. The latest of his romances is this of Chrisna, which has already in two months passed through three editions. It is a tale of Dalmatian and Montenegrine adventure and history. The hero is a renegade Slavonian, Pierre Zény, whose headlong valor and success in battle have made him chief of a robber tribe and honored him with the pompous name of "King of the Danube." The heroine, Chrisna, is a girl of Montenegro, of humble extraction, but rare beauty and fascination, who had been won by the accounts of the bandit's valor to join his party and to become his wife. These are the principal personages; and all the rest, the jealous Croat, the German Baron, the robber and soldiers, and the old wife Margatt, are merely appendages to the fortunes and acts of these principals. The story is throughout full of motion and excitement. There are hair-breadth escapes, hand-to-hand combats, marches by night and in storm, hiding in dreadful